Dancing Star

L, No. 2. January 1951 Fifteen Cents

.. Dance Teacher Turns Song-Writer

Phyllis Helberg, San Francisco
ace teacher may hit the jack-
with a song she helped write
it Christmas for a group of her
ace students.
In collaboration with Paul Thom-
, Miss Helberg penned a catchy
tle tune titled SANTA HAS RHYTHM
ch is currently being played by
k Ross in the Cirque Room of the
rmont Hotel ,with songstress
n Blackman doing the vocalizing.
San Francisco's disc jockeys are
o giving the Santa song a good
d off.
iss Helberg has signed with Leeds
lishing House for the marketing
her number. Bing Crosby and the
rews Sisters have also wired for
ull score on the number.
lthough written a year ago, Miss
lberg, when asked what her future
ns were, said:
'Lately, things have been happen-
g so fast with our song that I've
dly had time to catch my breath."
l then added coyly: "But if you
wondering whether I'm giving up
dance teaching the answer is
initely no...not until it's in
bag, the money, that is."

GENE KELLY'S DISCOVERY

ew French dance
r, LESLIE CARON,
discovered by
E KELLY in Paris,
ces with him in
forthcoming ve-
le, AN AMERICAN in
IS. Leslie was
llerina with the
LET des CHAMPS
SEES for several
rs. Her Ameri-
-born mother is a
mer ballerina.
n as much as Judy
land recently left
folds of MGM per-
s this petite blue
i dancer will take
y's place. →

The U.S. Spends Yearly For Recreation & Pleasure:

Alcoholic beverages,
$9,000,000,000
New and used cars,
$6,581,000,000
Smoking tobacco,
$4,147,000,000
Musical instruments, radios, phonographs and records
$1,760,000,000
Figures for fiscal year 1948-49, Report Department of Commerce, July 1948, Golden Rule Foundation, 60 East 42nd St., New York, NY.

Ed's note: And we'd bet our best pair of dance bregans that if all the money spent on dancing lessons were laid end to end---there would be no end...

foxtrot finals

San Francisco, Dec.3.

The winners of the six week old Smooth-Foxtrot Contest held in San Francisco's beautiful El Patio Ballroom on Sunday, Dec. 3, were 1st, Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Isaak, 2nd, Mr. & Mrs. Merv Luhman, 3rd, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Verez.

There eighteen finalist competing for the three loving cups and contestants displayed exceptional talents on the ballroom floor.

Oddly enough, all three winners were married couples.

Judging was based on smoothness, rhythm, fascility of steps, and general appearance.

Judges for the finals were, Miss Alice Lewis, Mr. G. Brown and Gordon Keith.

rocky graziano

TURNS DANCE TEACHER...(see page 3)

256521

Editorial . . .

YOUR CHILD'S PRACTICE...

The subject of 'Practice' is a perennial one to be worked out intelligently between parent and child.

For some reason, not altogether clear to us, some mothers seem unable to cope with their offsprings lack of desire to practice; whether it be dancing, music or singing.

"I just don't know what to do with Janie. I simply can not make her practice."

Remarks such as this are all too common and usually little Janie is standing by taking them all in.

Obviously, a child should be governed by its parent, not the parent by the child.

It is only natural for most boys and girls to dislike anything that verges on work. And practice, after the newness wears thin, is work.

But is that so unusual the desire to avoid routine? We don't think so. Many children would skip school if they thought they could get away with it. Come to think of it we wouldn't even go to work if we didn't have to.

Once a child is enrolled in a music or dancing school, it's up to the mother to show an interest in her youngster's lessons. She should see to it that classes are regularly attended and that definite practice periods are set aside and the schedule adhered to.

There are numerous ways, short of beating children, to induce them to practice. For example: (Depending upon age) You might take away candy, allowance, shows, play period or television.

A child (usually much smarter than many parents suspect) soon learns by such disciplinary action that its parent mean business. And as in attending school and doing homework, a youngster soon dismisses even the thought of of evading it.

To be certain, there is always the parent who insists that life is too short to go to all that bother. That a child is only young once, etc. Which to our way of thinking is merely another means of saying it's too much work. I can't be bothered.

Granted. A child is young only once, but it's during these early years that its habits are being formed. And if permitted to give up a subject simply because there is too much work involved is a grave mistake. This lackadaisical attitude on the part of parent and child if allowed to continue can do much to break down a youngster's will or desire to succeed.

In all sincerety, we can only say what has been said many time before and that is: We only get out of any thing what we put into it....

M E O W

"BETTE DAVIS and I are very good friends," TALLULAH BANKHEAD said, thinking over Miss Davis's evident impersonation of her in "All About Eve." There's nothing I wouldn't say to her face—both of them." Asked if she'd like to do "The Life of Bette Davis," Tallulah purred: "All nine of 'em, darling!"

Newsweek

(Sounds like something out of a Dorothy Parker short story.)

* * * *

One of Gimbel's Santa Clauses reported at the end of his first day of duty that his pocket had been picked of five dollars.

-New Yorker-

(Not bad considering the number of Santa Clauses Gimbel's must hire.)

Learn to dance, not so much for the sake of dancing, as for coming into a room and presenting your self genteelly and gracefully.—

- Chesterfield -

★ DANCING STAR ★

376 Almaden Ave. CY 5-7827
San Jose 10, California

Editor	Gordon Keith
Asst. Editor	Barbara Henson
Feature Editor	David Storm
Photographer	A. Lewis
Business Mgr.	S.J. Paul

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Dance Lines

by Gordon Keith

IN all probability, by the time you've gotten around to reading this little column, you will have heard 'Happy New Year'until you're no longer happy...so we'll just skip our little salutation...

SPEAKING OF MIDGETS

THE other day while teaching a group of our midgets (4 to 6 year olds) we had the music a bit loud. Suddenly one little girl stopped dancing long enough to exclaim : "Mr. Keith, will you please to not turn the record up so loud--- it blinds my ears."

BERNIE Comito who used to teach dancing for our organization and who now teaches school, surprised his first and second graders by fly ing over the school grounds and dropping 'personal letters' from old St. Nick to each of his pupils.

UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE MONTH

THE newsboy stood yelling: TRUMAN ASKS 18 MILLION FOR WAR. The headlines on the papers he carried read: TRUMAN ASKS 18 BILLION FOR WAR. Oh well, what's a few million more or less these days....

BESSIE Clark, who has her studio in the Y.W.C.A., sent most unusual Xmas cards this year. Printed in the upper left corner of a long white envelope (the kind most of us receive our bills in about the first of each month) was the word: "Bill"...?. The message on the inside bore the following message:

It's not a "BILL"
Just an Old Fashioned
Merry Xmas and a
Happy New Year.

INSIDE DOPE

IF it weren't for the fact that our associates have sworn us to secrecy, (temporarily, that is) we'd let you in on some exciting news that's in store for the readers of the DANCING STAR.

ONE thing we'd like to mention, though, is that we got a real kick out of our first out-of-state subscriptions. (But we're just as happy over our California supporters)

GRAZIANO; dance maestro:

ROCKY GRAZIANO, former middleweight champion, has a new sideline; teaching youngsters to dance at the Wally Wanger Dancing School in New York.

(a) "I thought it was strictly for dames myself," Rocky said, (b) until I learned dancing to keep my ears on straight...(c) Personally they can drop all the Waltzes down the well. (d) You shake a nice Fox trot and no one will ever get within a yard of you...(e) I didn't want I should talk over these kid's heads so I worked it out with my old lady that I should keep everything simple. (f) This is a big thing for me. (g) I think this could do lots for juvenile delinquency."

(ED'S TRANSLATION: (a)Rocky thought dancing was just for girls and other feminine individuals. (b) He took up dancing to make himself lighter on his feet, thus enabling him to keep out of the way of his opponents fast roundhouses. (c) He doesn't care to Waltz. (d) If you're competent in dancing the Foxtrot your chances of keeping your ears on are greater. (e) He talked his method of presentation over with his wife in order to be certain he wouldn't talk over his student's heads...This last puzzles us. Could it be that Rocky uses a stepladder to teach from? (f) The "big thing" we assume is his problem of keeping his dance steps simple. (g) We're inclined to agree with Rocky; if not handled properly it could do a lot for juvenile delinquency.) * * * * *

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ARTHUR J. "DOC" CORBETT
PALO ALTO YACHT HARBOR

reviews

Reviews of musicals are rated according to plot, acting, and dancing qualities...

THE MILKMAN

Two funny men, Durante and O'Connor become involved with a stolen necklace, gangsters and murder all while operating a milk route. We would not be spoiling the plot suspense if we said everything comes out ok in the end. Some good laughs, but short on dancing...

MR. MUSIC

Bing Crosby enacts the role of a lazy songwriter. Needing $15,000, Crosby puts the bite on his producer(Charles Coburn)who agrees only if he will sit down and write songs for a new show. To make certain that he does, the producer hires a secretary(Nancy Olson)to watch over Crosby and his checkbook. This is quite a task inasmuch as Crosby enjoys golf to songwriting, and visiting with his fickle fiancee (Ruth Hussey)to working. To rep up the tempo of the picture there are several guest stars. And if your eye is quick enough you will see the latest dance sensation , Marge and Gower Champion as they flit past the camera a few times. Too bad, because this is really an up and coming dance duo.

THE WEST POINT STORY

Here's a musical with nearly as many plot twists as a "B" Western. James Cagney, who

(Concluded on page 7)

LEARN THE CUBAN RUMBA

The primitive rhythms of rumba music, plus the subtle rolling action of the steps make the Cuban Rumba a fascinating dance to do.

Because of the rumba's short steps it is particularly suited for small, crowded niteclub floors.This is one of the reasons for its growing popularity among ballroom dancers.

Observe the following simple rules while practicing and your steps will come easier.

1. Take short steps, approximately six or eight inches long.
2. Don't slide the foot, lift it slightly off the floor when doing the Cuban Rumba.
3. Step on the flat of the foot. This is one of the reasons for taking short steps.

PRACTICE EXERCISES:

Stand with feet together. Shift weight to the right foot.(Right leg should be straight. Left knee bent. No weight on left foot.

Shift weight to the left foot . (Left leg should be straight. Right knee bent. No weight on right foot.

You will discover by doing the foregoing exercise that your hips will move from side to side,depending upon which foot your weight is on. Neither try to move them, nor keep them from moving. Practice will soon regulate their movement.

RHYTHM: BASIC RUMBA

To help you hear the rhythm of rumba music listen to the accentuated beat only.

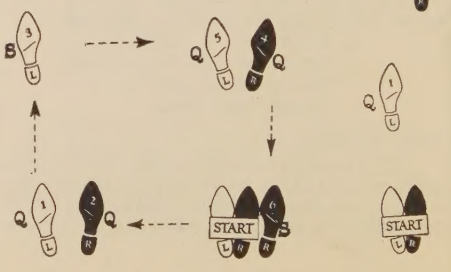
Count heavy beats as,1-2-3-4 (This makes one measure of music). Continue to count in sets of four until you have the rhythm in your mind.

Now, count the beats as 1-2-3-wait, etc. When you have practiced this way a while change your count ing method to, Quick,Quick Slow. Quick steps represent one beat of music, each Slow step, two beats. Thus: Q-1,Q-2,S-3-4,equals one measure.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE RECORDS: Rumba Fantasy,Cougat, Columbia #37939. Linda Mujer, Cougat, Columbia, #36780.

TRAVEL STEP

RUMBA BOX STEP



Studio Events

Gordon Keith Students danced for the following organizations:

1. SANTA CLARA YOUTH CENTER
   Dec. 6,7,8 and 11th.

2. CALVARY METHODIST
   Dec. 15th.

3. CARPENTER'S UNION
   Annual Xmas Show, Dec. 15th

4. LION'S CLUB, Morgan Hill
   Xmas Dinner at the Villa Dec13.

5. LOU'S VILLAGE
   Lions Club

6. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
   Youth Center. Blind People's Party for underprivileged Children. Dec 16.

7. STANFORD THEATRE
   Xmas Party, Dec 16th.

8. VARSITY THEATRE
   Xmas Show, Dec. 16th.

CLARK DANIELS(1-5), MARIALICE OLIVO (1),GLORIA CANCILLA(1), JACKIE & SANDRA BRAY(1-3), BARBARA HENSON(1-3-4), MARILYN FISK(2-6), ARLENE RUSCHE(6), MONA RAE MORGAN(7-8)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to each of you from Gordon Keith and Staff...

Edwina Feldpouch, Jan. 4.
Joyce Jacca, Jan. 13.
Cynthia Fisk, Jan. 18.

ADULT DIVISION:

Congratulations to Dick Newman, Frank Daphna and Al Morelli. Out of some twenty adult tap students this trio is all that remains of the original class. Although tap dancing is merely an exhilarating hobby, these lads take it seriously enough to keep on practicing.

****

Happy New Year

BOYS: If you feel awkward and out of place on a dance floor then this is just the dance class for YOU . . .

GIRLS: If you want to be able to follow your partner effortlessly then this is the class you'll want to be in . . .

TEEN-AGERS . . . WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR NEW DANCE CLASS

YOU'LL HAVE YOUR NEW CHOICE OF FIVE DANCES

WALTZ... FOXTROT... CHARLESTON JITTERBUG RUMBA... SAMBA...

teen-age class in BALLROOM DANCING starts

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GORDON KEITH Dance Studios

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10 % DISCOUNT WITH THIS AD.

BOYS and GIRLS:

This is YOUR TEEN-AGE dancing class designed especially for you, to give you an opportunity to LEARN or MODERNIZE your dancing, thereby increasing your confidence and POPULARITY.

IT'S A FACT . . .

James J. Audubon, the world famous naturalist, was a dancing instructor at the Jefferson Military College in 1827.

* * *

Bernarr MacFadden, famed pysical-culturist and former owner of Liberty magazine, will make another parachute jump on his 83rd birthday this coming August.

Ed. note: Those all-too-many individuals who consider themselves too old to dance at sixty or seventy ought to paste this little item alongside their rocker as a morale booster....

* * *

Some historians of the dance term Egypt the "Mother country" of all civilized dancing.

* * *

Mozart, who was himself an accomplished dancer, used often to say, so his wife stated, that it was dancing, not music, that he really cared for.

-From The Dance of Life-

* * *

"Repeaters" in show business are those individuals who attend the same show more than once. Managers of the large theaters watch for these "repeaters" as an indication of the show's success.

* * *

The Tango found its way to our country from Argentina. In its present ballroom form it has little in common with the Spanish Tango. The latter Tango is actually a solo for a woman. In the purely Spanish dance, the man's arm never goes around the woman's waist.

* * *

GENE KELLY
Famous Dance Star of Stage and Screen

****
Dancing is the poetry of motion...
****

stop us if we're wrong

by NEAL STANTON

RAINY DAY PEEVES:

Folks who walk under awnings on rainy days with their umbrellas at full mast, thereby crowding unprotected persons into the rain ought to be taken aside and given a bit of a talk on basic good manners...

Then there is the thoughtless female who, having waited the better part of a half hour for her bus, hurries aboard to escape the rain. Then, blocking the doorway she begins methodically searching through purse and pocketbook for her fare while fifteen or twenty others wait in the downpour for her to let them on. ★ ★ ★

HOW TO CROSS A STREET...safely

Yes sir, it's been a good many years since I've had to resort to the sneaky business of hiding behind a lady's skirt as a means of gaining my objective.

Lately, however, I've found it necessary to revert to this childhood prerogative in order to cross some of our down town streets (via the crosswalks) in safety.

And why, you might ask, must the male of our fair city resort to such a ruse when the motorist is compelled by law, if not by conscience, to stop for all crosswalk pedestrians?

Undoubtedly the trouble lies in the interpretation of the law. It appears that too many of San Jose's male drivers have misinterpreted it to mean that they are required to stop for the female of the species only, and the pretty ones at that.

And so it is with shame-faced candor that I have been forced to resume such petticoat technique.

So for what it's worth to others of my gender I hereby offer my own formula for a safe, quick passage across our streets:

(a) Stand patiently by until one of the fair sex steps off the curb.

(b) Follow slightly behind, not too far, however, as there is danger of being clipped in the coat-tail by some irate driver who may feel you're taking unfair advantage of the occasion.

That's it gentlemen. That's all there is to it. ★ ★ ★

★ CLASSIFIED ADS ★

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IS YOUR DANCING DATED? Try Brushing Up on your dance steps in our FRIENDLY Tuesday nite class Come alone, or bring a friend. You are always welcome. REASONABLE RATES GORDON KEITH DANCE STUDIO 376 Almaden Ave. San Jose, Calif.

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO MARCH in a parade? Then why not study BATON TWIRLING with California's 1949 State Champion, JANIE MAE FREED...Enroll for lessons at the Gordon Keith Dance Studio 376 Almaden Ave. San Jose Cy5-7827

From the PERSONALS columns of the *The Saturday Review*

WANTED: by efficient veteran 30 years old--smokes, drinks, out for coffee, good job, short hours, big salary.

DECADENT, frustrated assistant professor, loves martinis and arguments, desires correspondence with vital, interesting female..

UNEMPLOYED YOUNG JOURNALIST will correspond with publisher's daughter.

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(Continued from page 4)

plays a washed-up hoofer, is sent to West Point supposedly to help the Cadets stage their One Hundredth Night Show. Actually, he and his girl friend (Virginia Mayo) are at the Point to lure the producer's nephew (Gordon Mac Rae) away from West Point and into show business. To keep the jumping-jack, brass-baiting Cagney under control, he is taken into the Corps as a plebe. The low point of the story is when Cagney cuts in on Gordon Mac Rae's song and Gene Nelson's dance to show them how they ought to be done. Despite this musicals numerous implausibilities its fast action and numerous laughs make it above average.

laugh lines

"Darling, you'd be a wonderful dancer, but for two things."

"And what are they, sweetheart?

"Your feet."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The jealous husband spied his wife dancing with too much abandon. He glided up to her and whispered:

"Everybody's staring at you Sara, tell your partner not to hold you so close."

"You'd better tell him, honey," answered the wife. "I don't even know the guy."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"If you are tired dancing, let's sit down and have a tete-a-tete."

"No thank you. After such a big supper I really couldn't eat a thing."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

He: "May I have the last dance?"
She: "You've already had it."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

At a formal dance a sophomore discovered that he was standing on his girl friend's train. He had presence of mind enough to say:

"Though I may not have the power to draw an angel from the skies, I have pinned one to the earth."

She excused him.

Ballroom Patter

by David Storm

ON BEING REFUSED A DANCE

Too many men fresh from dancing schools tend to give up after they've been refused a few dances.

The thing to do if you've been turned down two or three times is to move on to another part of the ballroom. But don't be a quitter. Remember, you don't ask those you don't want to dance with. Consequently it is a lady's privilege to accept or refuse as she chooses.

Another thing to bear in mind if you are a novice on the dance floor is that, not everyone is a good dancer. Therefore, should you experience difficulty in leading, or following, don't pass judgment on yourself until you have danced with several partners. It may not be your fault.

dance tips

DANCE DON'TS FOR LADIES:

Don't dance with your feet apart.

Don't try to anticipate your partner's lead. (Wait for it.)

Don't be afraid to take full length steps from the hips not the knees.

Don't ride back on your heels. Stay slightly forward on the balls of your feet. That way you will have better balance and be a much lighter partner.

Don't forget to smile when you find it necessary to decline a dance. A smile, like sunshine, leaves a warmth over those it falls upon.

DANCE DON'TS FOR MEN:

Don't bounce when you're dancing.

Don't use your left hand as though it were a pumphandle.

Don't change steps without indicating such a change by a firm lead.

Don't point your toes toward the ceiling when you have occasion to raise your foot off the floor.

Don't clutch your partner as though you expected her to run away. (Keep a firm hold, but permit her to stand upright. Don't bend her like a willow.

Don't brag about never having had a dance lesson in your life. (Chances are your partner will know it after your first few steps on the dance floor.)

Those move easiest, who have learned to dance. -Pope-

It is not the place, nor the condition, but the mind alone that can make anyone happy or miserable. - L'Estrange -

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